

UNCLAS //N01000//

ALCOAST 501/12

COMDTNOTE 1000

SUBJ: 237TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAVY CHAPLAIN CORPS

1. THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD JOIN ME IN WISHING A HAPPY 237TH BIRTHDAY TO THE U.S. NAVY CHAPLAIN CORPS.

2. NAVY CHAPLAINS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING OUR NATIONS SEA SERVICE SINCE 28 NOVEMBER 1775. THROUGHOUT OUR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, AND EVEN BEFORE THE ADOPTION OF OUR CONSTITUTION, THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS RECOGNIZED THE NECESSITY OF ENDURING SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL.

3. WITH OVER 700,000 ACTIVE AND RESERVE SAILORS, MARINES AND COAST GUARDSMEN STATIONED AROUND THE WORLD AND IN THE MOST REMOTE AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE TASK IS AS FORMIDABLE AS IT IS IMPORTANT. IT IS MADE EVEN MORE SO BY THE WIDE SPECTRUM OF BELIEFS HELD BY THOSE WHO ENTER THE SERVICE. OUR MILITARY CHAPLAINS SUPPORT SERVICE MEMBERS OF OVER 100 DIFFERENT FAITH GROUPS.

4. CHAPLAINS HAVE STOOD ALONG SIDE THE MEN, WOMEN AND FAMILIES OF THE COAST GUARD SINCE 1929, WHEN THE FIRST CHAPLAIN ASSIGNED TO THE COAST GUARD, CHAPLAIN ROY LEWIS, REPORTED TO THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY.

5. TODAY 40 ACTIVE AND 11 RESERVE CHAPLAINS CONTINUE TO EXEMPLIFY THEIR MOTTO "VOCATI AD SERVITIUM" (CALLED TO SERVE) BY FAITHFULLY PROVIDING SPIRITUAL SUPPORT, PASTORAL CARE AND A STEADY PRESENCE AROUND THE COAST GUARD. THEIR COMMITMENT TO CARING FOR ALL WAS MOST RECENTLY VISIBLE DURING AND FOLLOWING THE HURRICANE SANDY RESPONSE EFFORTS.

6. ON THIS SPECIAL OCCASION OF THEIR 237TH BIRTHDAY, PLEASE THANK OUR CHAPLAINS FOR THEIR FAITHFUL AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR COAST GUARD AND TO OUR NATION.

7. ADM BOB PAPP, COMMANDANT, SENDS.

8. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.